Boyd Camak

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Previous Hypocrisy

PDF of early blog posts… from backup files
September 5, 2025
These intrusive sports betting sites ads on Spotify are legalized crime.
September 5, 2025
(no title)
September 5,

Monthly Archives: February 2024

Christianity is not a religion. Edit

Posted on February 24, 2024 by Boyd Camak,

hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5)

Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Christianity is not a religion. Christ taught a Way (cf. Acts 19:23 Acts 24:14) of living that embraces suffering (cf. Matthew 16:24-26) and leads to internal freedom (cf. Matthew 5:3-12)–including internal freedom from unjust/corrupt external authority including–maybe even *especially*–religious authority/religious abuse–that would seek to control us, to shame us,

When I started in tech sales circa 2007, one of the first things they said in training was, you don't want to sound like vendor verbal vomit. This blog is vendor verbal vomit. The only thing I have to sell is sin, confusion, blindness, vice, disorder, profanity, despair, and death. I hear that sometimes the Holy Spirit uses this

2025
Stigma is not changed directly: “Change your opinion about X.” It probably has to be changed by a life disruption that triggers a more comprehensive shift in perception.
September 5, 2025
podcast outtake
September 4, 2025
priority scramble?
September 4, 2025
Jesus is for people.
September 3, 2025
(no title)
September 3, 2025
Here’s a quick AI summary. I hope it helps someone.
September 3, 2025

to manipulate us, to scare us–etc. The gospels are full of Jesus confronting and calling bullshit on religious leaders with their hypocrisy:

“Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. **For they preach but they do not practice**. They tie up **heavy burdens [hard to carry] and lay them on people’s shoulders**, but they will not lift a finger to move them. **All their works are performed to be seen**. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation ‘Rabbi.’ As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **you hypocrites. You lock the kingdom of heaven before human beings. You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow entrance to those trying to**

collage of cliches and foolishness to do some good.

FREE. TAKE IT.
ABANDONED SECTION
Thrown / Disoriented / Unmoored
[DRAFT--better blog navigation under construction]
About
art and music (draft)
Contact Me
expired
fine print
topics etc. (draft)

FREE. TAKE IT.
September 2, 2025
hot take: The enemy is delighted that I spend most of my time thinking about the implications of my *ideas about God's love* rather than the implications of God's love itself.
August 15, 2025
hot take: why can't we just say "God loves you," and leave it at that?
August 15, 2025
hot take: most theology is demonic.
August 15, 2025
WTF? (cf. The Apostle Paul)
August 13, 2025
Change How You See the

enter. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **you hypocrites. You traverse sea and land to make one convert, and when that happens you make him a child of Gehenna twice as much as yourselves**."Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If one swears by the temple, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gold of the temple, one is obligated.' Blind fools, which is greater, the gold, or the temple that made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If one swears by the altar, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gift on the altar, one is obligated.' You blind ones, which is greater, the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? One who swears by the altar swears by it and all that is upon it; one who swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it; one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it. " **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.** You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. [But] these you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel! " Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. **You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence**. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so

World (For the Better) | LITTLE BY LITTLE | Fr Columba Jordan CFR August 12, 2025

from a theological dialogue with a fellow church nerd August 12, 2025

Breaking False Peace: Camak's Confrontational Non-Violence August 12, 2025

(no title) August 11, 2025

nugget from a draft I'm working on: Radical contentment: God will provide. And if not, He is crucified with us, and we with Him. August 11, 2025

that the outside also may be clean. *“ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **you hypocrites. You** are like whitewashed tombs, which **appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of filth.** Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the memorials of the righteous, and you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have joined them in shedding the prophets' blood.' Thus you bear witness against yourselves that you are the children of those who murdered the prophets; now fill up what your ancestors measured out! 33hYou serpents, you brood of vipers, how can you flee from the judgment of Gehenna? 34i* Therefore, behold, I send to you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that there may come upon you all the righteous blood shed upon earth, from the righteous blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Amen, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.” https://a.co/hZexDah

If we're going to focus on something irrelevant to the gospel, I think that we could come up with something better than western civilization. August 11, 2025
for a young person in pain August 10, 2025
broken vessel dad August 10, 2025
zine 1.0 + ebook (both free) August 10, 2025
(no title) August 10, 2025
Burned by Grace: an underground testimony August 10, 2025
Interior Freedom from Luke 12:32–40 August 9, 2025
pulling together an e-book…

If this sounds like a radical teaching, that is because the New Testament is radical. In fact the conservative Eastern Orthodox priest Alexander Schmemann put it even stronger saying that Christianity is the end of all religion.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."" https://a.co/169uJOk

| Tagged bible, christianity, faith, jesus, matthew, Trail 1: The Counterintuitive Gospel, Trail 5: Resisting Empire & Loving Enemies | Leave a comment

an evening meditation un plugged

Edit

here are some one-liners I pulled from the archives August 8, 2025

(no title) August 7, 2025

Don't be afraid to fire your doctors, therapists, and other providers. Trust your gut. August 7, 2025

Hell is the Pathway to Heaven August 7, 2025

Discerning the Right University: An Issue-Spotting Frame work August 6, 2025

The Naked Gospel: A Manifesto of the Soul August 5, 2025

Discuss what these sources say about Core Theological Concepts, in the larger context of Boyd

Posted on February 20, 2024 by Boyd Camak,

hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5)

Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Someone said that Jesus is the incarnation of all teaching. Someone in the Bible said that Jesus is the truth. But what does that mean? Is it just a label? Jesus goes in the yellow folder labeled T (for truth). This lends itself rather nicely to philosophizing and theologizing. Jesus goes in the yellow folder with a T label. Aristotle goes into the green folder labeled W for wisdom. I was reading a snippet of Aidan Nichols tonight and he was adroitly weaving Thomist theology with some great literature or something. But Jesus doesn't go in a folder—He's not a label or a concept. He is a flesh-and-blood human being who walked His talk all the way to a shockingly violent and brutal unjust execution by a pact between elite religious and political leaders. Jesus is not a label. Jesus is an everyday human life. Someone in the Bible said he is like us in *every way* except sin. Jesus spoke the truth and lived what he taught—paying the worst price imaginable in order to do so. (He sweated blood in prayer contemplating this ultimate surrender.) THIS is what it means to say Jesus is the truth—His *life*—not a label. Meditating on the depth of His love for me as demonstrated by His talk *and his

Camak's Spiritual Journey & Theology. August 5, 2025
What is the gospel? August 5, 2025
podcast: Beyond Perfect: Forging Authentic Faith in Life's Crucible August 4, 2025
✝️ Signposts from the Front August 4, 2025
Too Catholic to be Catholic? August 4, 2025
From Strategies to Surrender: A Spiritual Journey Beyond Self-Help August 4, 2025
Calling Off the Cavalry August 3, 2025
The Trinity and the Surrender of Burdens August 3, 2025
The Danger of Conventional W

walk*—this meditation on his life as culminated in his death—this is a doorway into seeing the truth of how things are and how Christ has joined himself to how things are and is working through his flawed and wounded followers to bring about Resurrection.

| Tagged christianity, faith, jesus, Trail 1: The Counterintuitive Gospel | Leave a comment

What is existentialist C hristianity?

Edit

Posted on February 15, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

What is existentialist Christianity? Well for me anyway it's first of all a clearing away, a setting aside of the formulas and the theologies–especially as they are presented at the popular level and also setting aside the question of the supernatural–and looking at the life of Christ (which is an embodiment of His teaching) as a framework for living…

isdom August 3, 2025
flower power? August 2, 2025
Beyond Dominance: Saint Joseph and the Radical Reimagining of Biblical Manhood August 2, 2025
When Theology Becomes Trauma: A Personal Appeal to Those Questioning Calvinism August 1, 2025
Embracing_the_Outsider__Finding_Profound_Truth_in_Ordinary_Life.m4a August 1, 2025
Does Camak's writing here have anything to offer young adult men? July 31, 2025
podcast: From Overwhelm to Holy Foolishness July 31, 2025

for orienting oneself in this world that many of us feel thrown into without our prior consent. It's a way of dealing with the apparent meaninglessness of life and the external and internal forces that would deprive us of our true liberty and humanity–either by deception, fear, unconsciousness, despair, addictions and the like. It is an emptying of all of that. It's not about avoiding hell. It's a recognition that life already is hell–although it often takes something shocking or tragic for us to recognize that.

| Tagged Thrown / Disoriented / Unmoored, Trail 3: Existential Christianity and Thinkers Who Helped | Leave a comment

a very rough first draft

Edit

Posted on February 11, 2024 by Boyd Camak,

hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5)

Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

There is a lot of bullshit and many species of bullshit out there surrounding the life and teaching of Jesus–in fact a lot of the bullshit that goes by the name of Christianity has nothing to do with the life and teaching of Jesus. It's so bad, that many

The Sower and the Ravens: Trust Beyond Strategy July 31, 2025
overwhelm –> our life, “conceived by the Holy Spirit” July 31, 2025
The Flight to Egypt July 31, 2025
a personal meditation on the dangers of spiritual pride and the quiet dignity of ordinary faith July 31, 2025
a note of encouragement to all of us July 31, 2025
Navigating the Unlit Path July 30, 2025
notes to self 7.30.25 July 30, 2025
“After you.” “No. After you.” July 30, 2025
What Saint Joseph Teaches Me

serious seekers dismiss Christianity out of hand–putting it in the same bucket as a fairy tale–despite those earnest souls who try to convince people that fairy tales are more real than day-to-day life. But somewhere along the way I read somewhere that the Dalai Lama said–no more Christians becoming Buddhists! Rather Christians should go deeper into their own tradition. Well I’ve tried to do that and I’m passing along these distillations in hopes that they might save someone the trouble. What follows is rambling, half coherent, and in need of editing. Like some guy said, I apologize for the length of this letter. I didn’t have time to write a shorter one.

First, on the idea of why the hell is there so much shit and pain and evil in the world daily–this from Rowan Williams via James Macintyre:

> A FEW years ago, Rowan Williams, then Archbishop of Canterbury, was asked where God was on 11 September 2001. “Where he always is, always in the centre of things, always in the acts of love and generosity that people give to one another in times of crisis,” said Lord Williams, who had been in New York on the day of the terrorist attacks.

About Fatherhood and Masculine Strength July 29, 2025
Choose your own title from a list at the end of this reflection. July 28, 2025
Check, please. July 28, 2025
Milarepa vs. Moses the Black July 28, 2025
#solidarity #suffering #deliverance July 27, 2025
field notes 7.27.25 July 27, 2025
Saying His Name in the Chaos: Not a Curse, But a Cry July 27, 2025
stumbled across this–It's not just about being single or married, it's about the joy of understanding our life

> "People expect when they ask that question of where was God — they expect sometimes an answer in terms of a God who steps in and solves it all, stops it happening, or mops it up. But the way God works seems to be in the heart of it all, and through people."

And I'm not a scholar with a list of footnotes–so let me just say that the following is plagiarized and mutated from many sources including Rowan Williams, Louis Evely, Thomas Hopko, Jacques Philippe, Howard Thurman, and probably lots of ancient Greeks that I'm not aware of. Also the ethos of the holy fools and Eugene Vodolazkin's Laurus and the existentialist philosophers.

So anyway, one thing that occurred to me is this idea of God on a cross. If I remember my philosophy prof from 25 or so years ago, that was a phrase from Nietzsche–God on a cross. The God/man barbarically executed or lynched (cf James Cone). Attention scholars and philosophers and theologians: shut the f*&^ up and look at this outrageous scandalous barbaric execution of the God-man. The cross is not a hallmark greeting card symbol–it is a lynching tree, an electric chair. The excruciating embarrassing awkward shameful electrocution/lynching/crucifixion of

circumstances in the context of God's love for each one of His children July 26, 2025

A Rabbi, a Buddhist, and I walk into a bar…a synthesis of some evening thoughts via Buddhist AI on loan (with a message of caveat emptor). July 26, 2025

I had a professor in college who—anytime he had a mental slip—would say: "I only made one mistake, and that was once when I thought I did." 🤣🤣 July 26, 2025

Gram Parsons & Emmylou Harris – Country Baptizing vs. Huck

Jesus. Of Jesus! The one man that lived a life of integrity and love to the fullest. That event. That event which culminated a life and a series of contingent events–that thing that happened in flesh-and-blood everyday history. That is what reveals/exposes the human condition. That is what reveals who God is. (not a transcendent abstraction or even a scriptural analysis) So you say that God is omnipotent? We can speculate and project all day and all night about what God is. But, according to our tradition anyway, where is the one place that we know that we see God? Bueller? Bueller? The one place that we know that we see God in on the cross. So fast forward–my conclusion is that 1. God is love. (cf 1 John 4:8) and 2. God most fully revealed Himself on the electric-chair/lynching-tree/extremely-painful/embarrasing/[JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED NAKED]shameful-cross. Would anyone disagree that Jesus' crucifixion was a suffering? And this suffering love–THIS is how God chose to save the world. Not to check the box on some "theory of atonement," but to absorb in His own flesh-and-blood all of the hell that could possibly be thrown at Him. And we who would follow in His WAY continue to do the same. (cf Colossians 1:24) Not in a codependent way, but from a place of (hard-won) self possession and interior

Finn's guilt July 25, 2025
The first canonized saint was a criminal being executed. July 24, 2025
Selling spiritual writing is like demanding money when someone asks you for directions—or requiring a toll in order to see a road sign. July 24, 2025
(no title) July 24, 2025
a zine available for download July 23, 2025
(no title) July 22, 2025
(no title) July 22, 2025
note July 20, 2025
(no title) July 20, 2025
Blessed Assurance_ Rest in Christ's Love.wav July 20, 2025

freedom. Well I'd like to think that God's omnipotence should be manifested as a magic wand that fixed all the shit and stopped more shit from happening and I'd like to philosophize about all the implications and pretzel logic flowing from my magic wand demand. But the root of the Christian tradition says that the cross is how God revealed Himself and that revelation (prior to any interpretation of it) is what saved the world. God's power is the power of suffering love.

And that brings me to another conundrum that I wrestled with for years–the relationship of Christ's teaching and His crucifixion. (And resurrection.) (And His second coming.)

Ok first–the supernatural, miracles, etc. This is such a stumbling block for so many. Contemporary seekers can't wrap their head around supernatural aspects of faith. Some Chrisitan apologists take issue with the terminology that would divide miracles, etc. from normal reality. Others would demythologize Chrisitanity of all supernatural aspects. Many Christians ignore all of this and focus on loving God and loving neighbor, and of course there are reactionaries.

So my take is that, notwithstanding the first-century understanding of the

blessed assurance July 20, 2025
DRAFT Dr. ChatGPT & me on weight, etc. July 20, 2025
(no title) July 20, 2025
(no title) July 19, 2025
Suffering: A Path to Divine Understanding July 19, 2025
Ready, set, no go. July 19, 2025
BS Detector July 18, 2025
(no title) July 18, 2025
Gadarene demoniac July 18, 2025
FWIW ICYMI July 18, 2025
ACNA is dead. July 17, 2025
ChatGPT: Did Jesus and St. Paul and the other Apostles and Martyrs "put themselves first," as the

physical world, etc., it's pretty clear that it took even the apostles–those who were closest to Jesus–a long time to fully understand who He was and what He was about. So why should we expect a contemporary seeker 2000 years later to accept at the outset something that even the apostles took a long time to grasp? I think that a demythologized faith offers an existentialist framework for making sense of the human condition and an invitation to organizing one's life inside the framework of Christ's life. And then leave the rest up to God. Let God reveal whatever of the supernatural he wants to reveal when He wants to reveal it. Let a spiritual director, clergy, and friends walk with the seeker on the long road of life. All the arguing and debating is just hot air and a waste of time.

There are lots of ways to interpret the resurrection and what it was. But at the end of the day, people were willing to be martyred rather than deny the resurrection of Christ.

Some would say that the second coming was an unfulfilled promise. Some go to great lengths to argue that the second coming will take place at some extremely distant point in the future. But what about the thief-in-the-night verses? There is an existentialist reading of the second coming that

common advice goes? Did anyone in the Christian tradition, whether it's St. Thomas or St. Ignatius of Loyola, or the Popes, or any of the saints, did any of them follow this put-yourself-first advice? And what about codependency? July 16, 2025

(no title) July 15, 2025

Alan Jackson's "Chasin' That Neon Rainbow" vs. Jesus' baptism and subsequent temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 3–4, Mark 1, Luke 3–4) July 15, 2025

so true July 15, 2025

(no title) July 14, 2025

says that this moment…and this moment…and this moment…and this moment…is a second coming. Lots could be said about this and argued about this, but the point is that there is a starting point here…an access point for the seeker or for the one who is rethinking his/her/their faith to understand this part of the tradition without a sacrifice of the intellect.

Okay the next thing is the wedge or the perceived discontinuity between Christ the teacher and Christ crucified and resurrected and the subsequent atonement theories and mythologies and their associated formulas that are used to proselytize and to form children. The arguments and the theories go round and round. The crux of Christ's teaching is the Beatitudes–which are not a Hallmark card, but rather a threatening teaching that would liberate the poor and oppressed–right now–starting with an internal liberation. And the relationship of the crucifixion to those teachings was Christ walking the walk of the Beatitudes right into the teeth of the bargain between the state and the religious elite that wanted to snuff out His liberation that threatened their power.

So there you go:

What overarching theological themes are explored through comparisons of popular culture and biblical narratives? July 14, 2025

–how God works in the world (oh the hubris)

–how God saved (and continues to save) the world

–the horror of the crucifixion

–God's power=the power of suffering love

The Angels Rejoiced Last Night-Gram Parsons Emmylou Harris vs. The Good Thief July 14, 2025

–series of contingent events in human history is the key to understanding the totality of reality–not abstraction or speculation

Dwight Yoakam – Turn It On, Turn It Up, Turn Me Loose vs. Pentecost in the New Testament July 14, 2025

–Jesus the God/man taught the Way to live a life of freedom and liberation and walked the walk of His own teaching even though it meant the worst death imaginable

Randy Travis's "Diggin' Up Bones" vs. Apostles huddled in the Upper Room after the crucifixion July 14, 2025

–existentialist/demythologized understanding of the Gospel can be a gateway to the seeker to organize their life in the framework of Christ's life–setting aside any supernatural aspects of faith for God to reveal if/when appropriate

–there is no discontinuity between the teaching of Christ and the death and resurrection of Christ that consumes the new testament.

–and maybe some stuff I missed

Mark Chesnutt – Old Flames Have New Names (Live at Farm Aid 1992) vs. Mary of Egypt July 14, 2025
Jim Croce's "Box #10" vs. Jesus sending the apostles out with nothing but faith and authority (e.g., Luke 9:1–6, Matthew 10:5–15, Mark 6:7–13). July 14, 2025
The Byrds' "You're Still On My Mind" (rehearsal take #43) and Peter weeping bitterly after denying Christ three times (Luke 22:54–62) July 14, 2025
The Byrds Life In Prison (rehearsal – take #11) vs. Saint Paul

This is a very rough first draft. A starting point for discussion.

| Tagged bible, christianity, faith, god, jesus, Trail 1: The Counterintuitive Gospel, Trail 2: Suffering | Leave a comment

the threat of primitive Christianity

Edit

Posted on February 1, 2024 by Boyd Camak,

hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5)
Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

There is a reason why the Way (Christianity) was persecuted to the point of death–starting with Jesus–by the religious elite and by the government. It was a threat–not by force–but by internal liberation from external threats–even threats of torture and death–or of divine punishment. It was a Way that freed even peasants–no *especially* peasants–to face the emperor, to face the human projections of God, to face poverty, loss, fear and all manner of external circumstances or fear of potential circumstances–with peace, joy, and self possession. No action of the emperor, no threat of religion, no material loss or physical

in Prison July 14, 2025
The Byrds The Christian Life (rehearsal – take #11) vs. Saint Paul July 14, 2025

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suffering could touch the internal freedom, joy, and self possession of one who had put all his/her/their chips on Christ–whose life and death had exposed government, religion, physical pain, material want–or anything else–as empty and powerless. The Way had defanged all of that power for those who put their chips on Jesus–who were all in. That was and is a direct threat to those who have put all of their chips on riches and on power and control. Can you imagine trying to threaten a true Christian saint with poverty or torture or hell? He/she/they would probably thank you for it and pray for you and try to help you. Look at the story of Saint Seraphim and the robbers. Look at how Howard Thurman examined these themes in *Jesus and the Disinherited*.

| Tagged Trail 2: Suffering, Trail 5: Resisting Empire & Loving Enemies | Leave a comment

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